

# Connecting the Dots to Economic and Cultural Revitalization in Fayette County, Ohio

## How you can get involved:

- Volunteer for community art activities in Fayette County
- Participate in summer Think Tank process
- Recommend best practices in economic development strategies in rural towns
- Volunteer to survey community members in Washington Court House, Bloomingburg and Jeffersonville

## To get involved, contact:

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<https://barnettcenter.osu.edu/programs/think-tank/spring-2016-washington-courthouse-oh>

## Purpose

This project uses community engagement interventions with various art practices to investigate the local culture of Washington Court House and other villages in Fayette County. This planning process brings together multiple partners from Fayette County and OSU to design opportunities and interventions (such as storytelling, interviews, community discussion forums, brainstorming sessions, and art making) that will lead towards sustainable economic revitalization efforts.

## Impact

To stimulate economic development using art and culture as a foundational intervention in rural areas to improve quality of life and well-being.

To build a community collaboration or culture hub in Washington Court House, Bloomingburg and Jeffersonville in Fayette County, that incorporates businesses, elected officials, non-profit organizations, farmers, artists, and residents.

To utilize best practices that incorporate art and culture interventions in economic revitalization efforts in rural American towns and counties.

## Ohio State Colleges/Units Involved

Barnett Center for Integrated Arts and Enterprise  
Center for Folklore Studies  
University Extension Community Development  
Think Tank Members:  
Youngaah Koh - Arts Administration, Education & Policy  
Claire Melbourne - Dance  
Karie Miller - Theatre  
Molly Rideout - English  
Katy Treitmaier - Arts Administration, Education & Policy  
Yifan Xu - Arts Administration, Education & Policy  
Yan Xiao - Arts Administration, Education & Policy  
Charity Mack - Arts Management

Think Tank members comprise of graduate and undergraduate students from a variety of programs, backgrounds and interests. This transdisciplinary group of outstanding students participate in a service learning class that collaborates with the Fayette County partners.

## Community Partners Involved

Fayette County Travel and Tourism  
City of Washington Court House/  
Main Street Group  
Fayette County Commission  
Bloomingburg Mayor's Office  
Jeffersonville Mayor's Office  
Fayette County Public Library  
Fayette County Historical Society and Museum  
Fayette County Economic Development  
Fayette County Geographical Information System  
The Print Shop  
Record Herald Newspaper  
White Fence Gallery  
Creative Courthouse  
Anima Viva Arts  
Miami Trace School



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